



Office of the Governor

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

PRESS RELEASE

01/08/2007 GAAS:010:07 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement by Health and Human Services Secretary Kim Belshé

Health and Human Services Secretary Kim Belshé today made the following statement regarding questions about Governor Schwarzenegger's health care reform proposal:

"For too long, health care proposals have placed too large a burden on employers, which is what we've seen from plans in Sacramento recently. The Governor's health care proposal will dramatically address the skyrocketing premiums employers have had to pay. While there is a small fee to prevent employers of 10 people or more from dropping coverage, under the Governor's plan small businesses will be protected and large businesses will finally be able to manage the cost of coverage.

"The Governor's health care plan is going to put well over \$10 billion back into hospitals and doctors' offices, and the small coverage dividend taken from that windfall will simply be recycled back into the program and back into the same hospitals and doctors' offices. At the end of the day under the Governor's plan, doctors and hospitals are going to see far more resources than they have now.

"Governor Schwarzenegger has been very clear that this proposal is a starting point for a robust discussion regarding repairing our broken health care system. The Governor is looking forward to working with Republicans, Democrats, insurers, doctors, business and labor leaders, consumer groups, and hard-working Californians to fix this problem."